AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A method for treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) counteracting ~~a pathologic change in a signal transduction pathway involving a member of the steroid/thyroid hormone super family~~ TGF-β-mediated down regulation of a glucocorticoid receptor, comprising;

administering to a mammalian subject in need an effective amount of a compound capable of inhibiting TGF-β signaling through a TGF- β receptor and a corticosteroid.

2-5. (canceled)

6. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the pathologic change is a TGF- β induced change in the activity or signaling of a steroid hormone receptor.

7. (canceled)

8. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the receptor is a thyroid hormone receptor.

9. (original): The method of claim 8 wherein the pathologic change is down- or up-regulation of a thyroid hormone receptor.

10. (canceled)

11. (original): The method of claim 9 wherein the down- or up-regulation is induced by TGF- β.

12. (original): The method of claim 8 wherein the pathologic change is a TGF- β induced change in the activity or signaling of a thyroid hormone receptor.

13-17. (canceled)

18. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the TGF-β receptor is a TGFβ-R1 kinase.

19. (original): The method of claim 18 wherein the compound is capable of binding to said TGFβ-R1 kinase.

20. (original): The method of claim 19 wherein the compound is capable of binding to an additional receptor kinase.

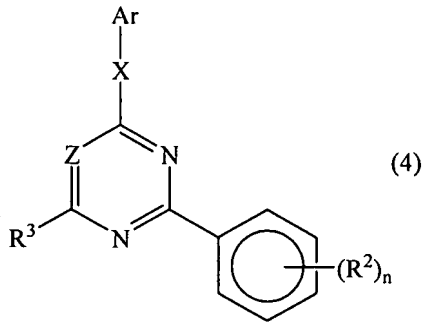
21. (original): The method of claim 20 wherein the additional receptor kinase is an activin receptor (Alk4).

22. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is a non-peptide small molecule.

23. (original): The method of claim 22 wherein the compound is a small organic molecule.

24-32. (canceled)

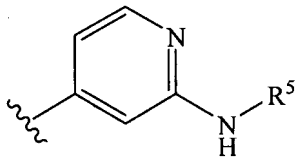
33. (currently amended): The method of claim 23 wherein the small organic molecule is a compound of formula (4)



(4)

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrug forms thereof; wherein

Ar represents an optionally substituted aromatic or optionally substituted heteroaromatic moiety containing 5-12 ring members wherein said heteroaromatic moiety contains one or more O, S, and/or N with a proviso that the optionally substituted Ar is not



wherein R^5 is H, alkyl (1-6C), alkenyl (2-6C), alkynyl (2-6C), an aromatic or heteroaromatic moiety containing 5-11 ring members;

X is NR^1, O, or S;

R^1 is H, alkyl (1-8C), alkenyl (2-8C), or alkynyl (2-8C);

Z represents N or CR^4;

each of R^3 and R^4 is independently H, or a non-interfering substituent;

each R^2 is independently a non-interfering substituent; and

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5. ~~In one embodiment, if n>2, and the R^2's are adjacent, they can be joined together to form a 5 to 7 membered non-aromatic, heteroaromatic, or aromatic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms where each heteroatom can independently be O, N, or S.~~

34. (canceled)